

400 Trees for the Hill

Please See Page 7

Issue 129 September 1994

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THD

Board Motions

March 8, 1994:

Voted to support the Russian Hill Improvement Association and S.F. Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board in opposition to demolition of the "Cable Car House" at 2022 Hyde Street. No demolition permit has been issued as of this writing, but an appeal will likely be launched to keep the structure from being torn down and the narrow lot left vacant.

Resolved to fund up to \$3,150 toward payment of half the cost of planting 40 trees in celebration of THD's 40th anniversary which will be rescinded at the September Board of Directors meeting. (See related article on 400- tree grant.)

Approved additional purchase of 80 new sweatshirts for resale.

April 13, 1994:

Voted to endorse a proposal to make upper portion of Romolo Place one-way.

Unanimously decided to make founding members of THD honorary life members exempt from annual dues.

Approved expenditure of \$75 to be listed in North Beach Guide.

May 10, 1994

Restated THD support of current prohibition of any aerial sightseeing at Pier 39 as had been resolved by City Planning

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without permission in writing.



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In July the Waterfront Plan Advisory Board, created by the Port Commission in response to the narrowly-passed (less than 1% margin) Prop H in 1989, completed its comprehensive land use plan for the 7.5 miles of our waterfront under the Port's trusteeship.

Fellow Board member and THDer Nan Roth and I attended almost every one of the more than 80 meetings. The plan boils down to the well-considered advice of 27 members who spent nearly three years reviewing data, sifting information and listening to informed testimony about maritime and non-water related land uses. Once edited (?) and adopted by the Port Commission it will be subjected to environmental review. The moratorium on Port development will remain in limbo until the EIR is completed in early 1996.

The date bothered Dennis Bouey, new Executive Director of the Port, who addressed our July 18th General Membership meeting. He has real concern that an important project like the restoration of the 94-year Ferry Building could not be completed in time for a centennial celebration.

Sismic upgrading is now underway, underwritten by Federal Emergency Management Agency earthquake repair funds. An engineering feasibility study nearing completion focuses on recreating this centerpiece of our historic waterfront as a major transit hub for the 21st century.

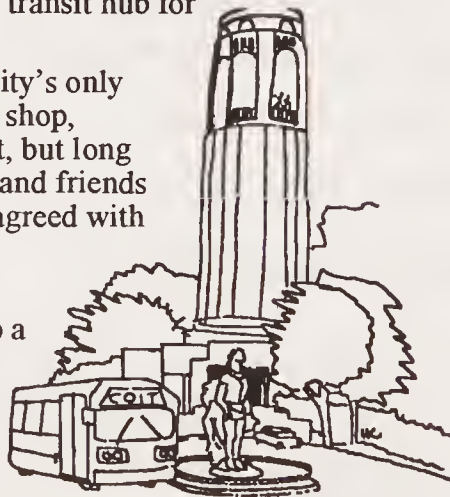
Bouey also wants to reopen and expand the City's only public boat launch at Pier 52 complete with bait shop, chandlery and snack bar - a more modest project, but long overdue. The 85-plus assembled THD members and friends at the Basque Hotel Restaurant wholeheartedly agreed with him.

Another group of select citizens on the Mid-Embarcadero Open Space task force wrapped up a 9-month endeavor to draft urban design and development guidelines for the 9.3 acres vacated by the demolition of the dreaded freeway.

After considerable debate, the panel recommended a paired roadway alignment gently bowed to the west that would create a 110 foot public plaza directly in front of the Ferry Building. Undergrounding proved to be too costly and took up vital open space with lengthly roadway portals. The environmental assessment will be folded into a study currently being conducted for replacement of Terminal Separator Structure with final certification due at the end of next year.

President's Letter

From Bob Tibbits



Continued on Page 8

**Susan Spano of the
NEW YORK TIMES wrote:**

"...the San Remo's location pleased me, and its attractions didn't stop there. In fact, no sooner had I climbed the steep, carpeted staircase leading to the check-in desk than I decided I had struck gold. Long, winding corridors lined with redwood wainscoting and neatly painted exposed pipes, entwined with philodendron vines, lead to 62 guest rooms on two floors, ranging in price from \$45 to \$75. There are cubbyholes, crowded with armoires, vanities, rag rugs and 19th century prints, in the cozy style of Grandma's house."

"...Fully satisfied by my accommodations at last, I began my exploration of North Beach."

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January 16, 1994

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The Telegraph Hill Dwellers booth at the North Beach Street Fair this June was not only an advertisement for our group but a popular stopping point for shoppers. The mesh rack of T-shirts and sweatshirts swayed gently in the breeze as locals, tourists, members and friends tried to find their sizes. The final count: all were sold except one extra-large sweatshirt, and many requests for more are outstanding as orders continue to be mailed in. Order yours now for those nippy fall days! Those of us who have one have appreciated their warmth, as several days this August have felt like winter on the Hill.

Jon Emil and staff of the Basque Hotel were hosts to the THD Membership Dinner attendees in July. A delicious multi-course dinner was served, and after dinner Dennis Bouey, new Director of the Port of San Francisco, was the featured speaker. Dennis articulated the financial status, ongoing projects and proposals, and a dream or two of his own for the future of the Port. The evening ended with an enthusiastic singing of Happy Birthday to Lowell Groves, celebrating his 80th year that



evening.
Congratulations,
Lowell!

Monday,
September 12 is
the All San
Francisco Sym-
phony at the Davies
Center. As usual,
many members will
be on hand to enjoy Piano

Concerto No. 1 by Tchaikovsky
and Moussorgsky's "Pictures at
an Exhibition." Also in Septem-
ber, an informal get-together is
planned for members, old and
new, to share tales of "summer in
the city" and/or beyond. Tenta-
tive date is Sunday, September
25.

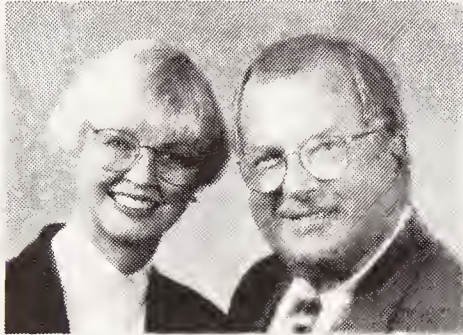
Our annual Coit Tower Picnic
is coming up on Sunday, October
16. (Tug-of-war enthusiasts--
you've had a year to get in
shape!) The 49'ers play Atlanta
at 10 a.m. so there's no excuse
not to come. "Tailgating" is
much more fun at the tower.

This year is a special year for
Hill Dwellers--it is THD's 40th
Anniversary. This fall a dinner-
dance will be held in November
to celebrate all of the people,
accomplishments, and, most
important, the wonderful neigh-
borhood in which we live. Please
plan to come and bring your
neighborhood spirit. Personal
invitations will outline the
details.

Social News

by Jarilyn Cerruti, Social Chair

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400 Trees for the Hill

by Bob Tibbits

Every street on Telegraph Hill will soon be planted with trees. THD has long been planning a "Greening of the Hill" for its 40th anniversary this year. The state is funding the project.

Mel Johnson, Program Director at S.F. Friends of the Urban Forest, (FUF) announced a \$300,000 State of California grant for the acquisition of 400 trees to be planted along the north Embarcadero and on Telegraph

Hill. This Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program funding is intended to alleviate the impact of the new Embarcadero Roadway project extending from South Beach to Fisherman's Wharf.

THD endorsed FUF's applica-

tion for this grant last fall. All the streets and alleys of Telegraph Hill were included in that request as part of the impacted area. Another 300 trees have been allocated to the neighborhoods impacted by the South Embarcadero Roadway which has just been completed.

FUF will orchestrate the planting program utilizing its

computerized list of all property owners in the THD area and conduct a publicity campaign to generate community interest in this massive undertaking. THD will be sponsoring neighborhood meetings working with FUF to educate the public about tree selection and organize planting sessions. Johnson envisions about six or seven tree planting Saturdays beginning later in the fall.

The toughest part of these neighborhood-wide campaigns can be obtaining permission from property owners. But owners will get these trees at absolutely no cost. The trees should be a welcome addition to every street on the hill that has a space for one. FUF will handle all the processing of applications through the Department of Public Works. Working with private contractors who will make sidewalk cuts and pre-drill the planting holes, THD volunteers will be called upon to do the actual planting, so get out your gloves and sharpen your shovels.

Any Telegraph Hill property owner who wants to get a head start can call the Urban Forestry Division of DPW at 695-2111 and ask for an permit application form. When completed, it should be mailed to Mel Johnson at S.F. Friends of the Urban Forest, 512 Second Street, S.F. 94107.



Continued from Page 3

Also along the waterfront, that big pile driving rig at Pier 39 is sinking 150 new piles for the new *Underwater World* attraction that will be completed in early 1996. The corner pile driving ceremony, marked by the notable absence of any City or Port officials, was highlighted by a helicopter landing illegally on the moored rig. Otherwise everything seemed to be copacetic. The final authorization by S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to "fill" the Bay for this aquarium project has been the subject of extended public hearing, even an unsuccessful challenge in appeals court.

Just two piers west, on the other hand, BCDC Executive Director Alan Pendleton issued a simple so-called "administrative approval" for more than 200 new piles (which is legally defined as "fill") being driven into the Bay at the Pier 43-1/2 parking lot. There was no testimony whatsoever from concerned citizens. Last year, he exercised his prerogative to okay \$900,000 replacement of that pier's underpinnings and resurfacing of the deck based upon his enlightened interpretation these were only "minor repairs and improvements". Since then the Port has spent more than six months working on this "de minimis" filling of the bay.

Up here on the hill Dick Marshall, a Fellow in the American Association of Architects, has accepted appointment as per our By-laws to become a Director of THD serving out resigning Director Tricia Brown's term. He has lived on upper Alta Street for several years and has given much pro bono time and effort reviewing alternatives to the massive, bulky condominium project proposed for the west Filbert Steps. Dick has a genuine interest in preserving the character of our neighborhood. We need all the help we can get on that score, so we're pleased and honored to have him.

THDers should be delighted and reassured. Mayor Jordan appointed Rod Freebairn-Smith, our distinguished ex-President, as a new Art Commissioner. He replaces either ex-hill dweller, the late Rai Okamoto, who was a former colleague of Rod's, or John Lund Kriken, who resigned for business reasons earlier this summer. There are only a few architects and planners in San Francisco who could fill either of those distinguished pairs of shoes.

Our heartiest congratulations to Rod and to the Mayor for his exercising such good artistic judgement. Rod will serve on the all-important Civic Design Review panel whose powers were almost emasculated in the ill-fated Charter reform measure that was voted down by the Board of Supervisors.

The City Planning Commission at it August 4th meeting decided to dump the new Residential Conservation Amendments that were generated by the City Planning Department with extensive neighbor-

Continued on Page 9

President's Letter...

hood input, and expressed its intention to approve the controversial Residential Conservations Controls.

This is a real setback for the reform advocates in the RH-1 and RH-2 zoning districts. Greater density will be allowed by virtue of extended lot coverages and liberal renovation controls. Our proposed Telegraph Hill Scenic Special Use District (see Jim Valenti's article) will set up unique requirements for RH-3 and RM-2 districts on the hill, so the impact of the RCC's may be limited in our neighborhood.

We were all grieved to learn of Nancy Katz' death on July 28th. She and Bob, her husband of 46 years to that day, have many old and dear friends in THD which they helped found in 1954. I cannot recall in my mere 22 years on this enchanted hill anyone who was more dedicated and selflessly committed to Telegraph Hill Dwellers than Nancy and Bob.

On the Monday following her passing, the Board of Supervisors adjourned in honored respect to her memory. Our sympathy to Bob and their son Andy, but every member of our 40-year old organization owes Nancy Katz a sincere, heartfelt thanks for her strong, at times bold and aggressive, stances, her energetic spirit and her unstinting service to our community and this city. She will not be soon forgotten.

President's Letter ...

Elected Official

Supervisor Angela Alioto
Supervisor Sue Bierman
Supervisor Terence Hallinan
Supervisor Tom Hsieh
Supervisor Barbara Kaufman
Supervisor Susan Leal
Supervisor Carole Migden
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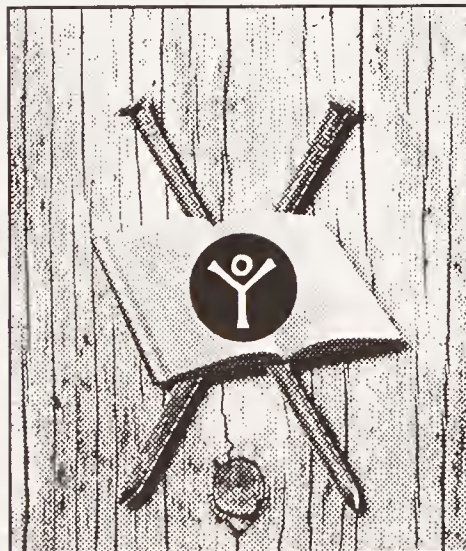
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Commission in 1975. The commission subsequently modified this prohibition to permit a 180-day trial evaluation of seaplanes tours under a temporary Conditional Use permit. Pier 39 and the Port have not yet obtained the required approval of S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission which may not be forthcoming.

Agreed to contribute \$25 to Friends of Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE).

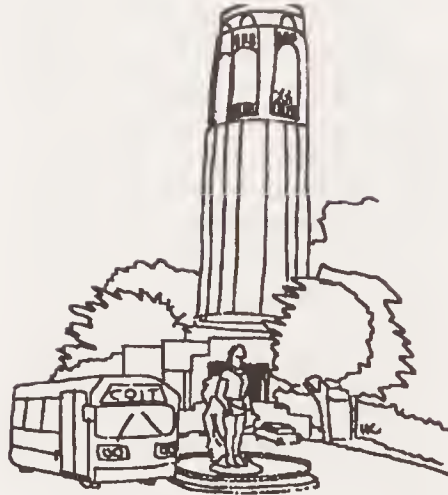
June 14, 1994:

Approved mailing of membership brochures to 3,050 addresses in the areas within our newly expanded boundaries beyond Bay Street and along the Embarcadero.

Voted to buy \$75 worth of tickets to the annual recognition luncheon for the Youth for Chinatown Elderly program.

July 12, 1994:

Voted to support proposed legislation that would create a Telegraph Hill Scenic Special Use District. Supervisor Bill Maher introduced the bill at the Board of Supervisors on July 25th and it was referred to the Housing and Land Use Committee for a public hearing after which it will become an interim zoning control until adopted or rejected by the Board.



Motions ...

Voted to oppose the issuance of three variances in connection with the proposed new six bedroom two-unit, three-story building (replacing one-story a three-units building with two low-income dwellings) at 49 Telegraph Place. The Zoning Administrator who visited the site with concerned neighbors has not rendered his decision as yet.

July 18, 1994

Voted to endorse the Port of San Francisco's ballot measure (which had been unanimously approved by the Waterfront Plan Advisory Board) seeking exemption for the Ferry Building and a public boat ramp facility with bait shop/chandlery/snack bar at Pier 52 from the Prop H moratorium on new development which will not be lifted until an EIR is approved in 1996 (General Membership meeting).

Walking the Hill Part II

by Joe Luttrell

We began our first walk around the Historic District in our March issue, starting at Speedy's Grocery, corner of Union and Montgomery. Our second walk, through the center of the District, can start there too.

Standing in front of Speedy's, walk kitty-corner across Union and Montgomery, to head downhill on Montgomery towards Alta. Pause just a moment to survey both sides of this stretch of Montgomery, between Union and Greenwich, to Julius' Castle. Over the years, some ten groceries existed here, not to mention two pool halls and a variety of other commercial establishments.

Halfway down the hill, turn right onto lower Alta. Almost immediately, you will spot the two balconies of 31 Alta, built in 1853 and essentially unchanged. It was in its basement in the 1920's that the Telegraph Hill Tavern flourished briefly, and in its backyard that the Peach Blossom Festival was held by Silvio Catelli in the 1950's. Just a few doors further down the street, at 25 Alta, lived the Spediacci family, whose Americanized nickname now graces Speedy's.

For those brave enough, a trip to the end of the street permits a peek over the enormous, new retaining wall now shoring up the hill where it and the McNear apartments gave way only recently. In one of the apartments

lived the Chronicle columnist, Charles McCabe, who (as I recollect) would make his way down the hill to Gino and Carlo's where, on a corner stool, he would write his daily column.

Returning back up the street, you will spot the Duck House at 60 Alta; go past it and look back, to see the ducks after which the dwelling takes its name, frescoes executed in the 1930's according to a traditional Italian formula by Helen Forbes and Dorothy Puccinelli. It was here, in the 1970's, that Armisted Maupin began writing "Tales of the City".

At Alta and Montgomery, turn right again downhill the short block to Filbert. Just at the corner, look up at 1360 Montgomery to take in the sgraffito wall decorations on both the Montgomery and Filbert street sides, created by scratching or carving into several layers of cement.

Now turn right, down the Filbert Street Steps, into the heart of the Historic District. Pause for just a moment to read the plaque dedicated to Grace Marchant, whose selfless and gargantuan efforts have given us the Gardens you are about to enjoy.

A few flights of steps past the plaque, your path zigs left briefly in front of a pump station essential to the fire safety of this portion of the District. If you wish, you may venture straight

ahead along Darrell Place, for the one block walk that will require you to turn about and return to the steps. Imagine it a century ago when, called Norton Place, it contained but two houses separated by a saloon. At 20 Darrell Place, take a peek at the studio apartment in the basement, once inhabited by Barnaby Conrad, the writer and painter who founded El Matador on Broadway.

Continuing downhill on the Filbert Steps, you will find a series of smallish cottages and homes on your left, principal among which is the "Captain's House" at 228 Filbert. Just below, Napier Lane joins the Filbert Steps at the heart of the Gardens, whose beauty and exotic floral proliferation deserve a stop--perhaps even a reflective spell on the crude but effective wooden bench at the corner. Thanks to the long, hardworking hours put in by Gary Kray voluntarily, Grace Marchant's efforts and spirit do indeed live!

It is from this idyllic spot that we will continue our third, and last walk through the District in the next issue.

It's Fall -- great weather (guaranteed!) and a great opportunity to get out and take a look at our neighborhood, as well as other interesting ones.

Although City Guides' October Neighborhood Walks schedule wasn't completed at Semaphore press time, we do know that there are Chinatown walks scheduled every weekend, Telegraph Hill walks continuing with more frequency, and North Beach walks starting every Saturday morning at 10, as they always do. For a schedule that includes times and dates for these as well as only-once-a-year walks, call City Guides at 557-4266.

Friends of the Urban Forest winds up its walking tours with an amble down the Lyon Street Steps, and a look at one of San Francisco's most historic neighborhoods, September 24, and a guided horticultural tour of the Panhandle October 22. For more details, call FUF at 543-5000.

All of these walks are free, fun, and very informative.

It's Time to Take a Walk

***Support Your Local Merchants....
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My Mom Was An Exclamation Point!

Nancy Watkins Katz died this July on her 46th wedding anniversary. She lived a dramatic, colorful life. Even though she had cancer, she never played the part of the victim. She had unshakable faith in her doctors and their treatments and she never let herself doubt that she would be cured. At the same time, the very threat of her disease really made her enjoy and appreciate life. She fought cancer with the same determination and courage with which she fought the Embarcadero Freeway and the proposed Washington Square Garage. The energy and enthusiasm she put behind her beliefs made her a powerful force.

One of my mother's favorite expressions was, "Go, man, go!" And that she did, no matter what challenge she faced. The wheelchair she was in this last year was not confining, but actually freeing — it enabled her to get to where she wanted to go. I may have lifted her in and out of that chair, but she held me up at least as strongly with her positive, fighting spirit. I was very proud when her doctor joined the many others who have said, "That's one tough lady."

All her life, my dear Nancy showed her love by being persistent in making things happen. She took an old, worn down building and, with her own hands, made a beautiful home for her family. She gave 40 years of energy to the city and to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. She replaced a Cedrus Deodara in Washington Square Park because she loved watching children swing from its branches. And even though it was difficult for her recently, on many Fridays she had me take her to the Cafe Trieste. This was her hang-out for 30 years where she could talk to friends, have her latte and watch the world go by. Our neighborhood was the world she loved so much. I remember when I was a child, I used to be afraid of the sounds the fog horns made. She comforted me by telling me they were saying, "I'm here." She still is.

---- Andreas W. Katz

My father Robert and I would be very pleased if anyone who has fond stories or memories about Nancy would send them to us at 2 Whiting St., San Francisco CA 94133

Date for a memorial service has not been set. To participate, phone 986-1890. Contribution in Nancy's memory can be made to Friends of the Urban Forest, 512 Second St., SF, 94107

THD Committees Need You

You can make a difference!

*Join one of THD's committees
and work with your fellow Hill
Dwellers to improve life on the
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SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Crime Prevention

Pat Lorentzen 781-0456

Organizes S.A.F.E. neighborhood watch groups and works with Police Department on local crime problems. Participates in Police Community Relations Committee.

Garfield School/Francisco Middle School Liaison

Tricia Brown 433-1827

Coordinates volunteers to assist in classrooms and with school projects.

Hill's Angels

Mia Morrill 982-4850

Getting families together for fun with their children and to work on projects to improve our environment on Telegraph Hill.

Landmarks and History

Joe Luttrell 255-6400

Conducts walking tours that highlight Telegraph Hill's colorful past and historic buildings.

Library

Maud Hallin 781-3761

Works with North Beach Branch Library (Gardiner Haskell, Librarian) and represents THD on neighborhood council.

Neighborhood Improvement

Dawne Bernhardt 399-1004 Peter Manolakos 399-9720

Deals with graffiti, litter and illegal dumping on the Hill; works with Clean City Coalition on periodic neighborhood sweep-ups.

N.E.R.T.

June Fraps 398-1187

Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

Neighborhood Liaison

Sue Cauthen 391-0737

Represents THD on League of Neighborhoods.

Parking and Transportation

Gerry Hurtado 788-7723

Represents THD residents before City agencies on traffic control, curb markings and MUNI service, cooperating with other neighborhood groups.

Parks and Trees

Volunteer Needed

Oversees "greening of the Hill" to enlist neighbors in tree planting projects, working with Friends of the Urban Forest.

Presidio/GGNRA

Jordan Rosenberg 788-5338

Monitors and participates in planning for transfer of Presidio to Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Planning and Zoning

Jim Valenti 398-0076

Assists neighbors with zoning issues and Discretionary Reviews; represents THD positions before Planning Commission and works with developers and the City to protect neighborhood character.

Waterfront/Embarcadero

Rod Freebairn-Smith, Bob Tibbits 986-2622 398-4094

Monitors DPW activities along the Embarcadero roadway and participates in planning committee meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget

Maud Hallin 781-3761

As prescribed in By-Laws for Treasurer.

Membership

Bob Ilse 291-0420

As prescribed in By-Laws for Financial Secretary

Program

Jarilyn Cerruti 421-3820

Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions; organizes annual picnic.

Semaphore

Editor Needed

The editor creates a quarterly Semaphore.

Three projects which increase the beauty and livability of The Hill are underway.

One is the planting of street trees commemorating THD's 40th anniversary. Another is the planting of a garden at North Beach Playground. We have set a tentative date to begin work in September and hope a significant number of good workers will assist this ground breaking.

Another project is the planning of a new Pool at the North Beach Playground. The present pool is sinking. I have received a copy of an engineering study of the soil from the Rec and Park Department. Our next step is to propose a new design for the recommended location.

All of your help is welcomed. Please call I me at 982-4850 if you can help in some way.

Hill's Angels

by Mia Morrill

Yes, this Christmas you can recycle your greeting cards.

Recyclers will not take Christmas cards because of the variations in paper, gold foils, etc.

There is a way, however, you can put your Christmas cards to good use. Jack Early of All-Year Christmas Cheer has a program he calls the "Recycling of Christmas Spirit".

For more than 30 years he and thousands of people throughout the country have sent millions of used Christmas cards to missionaries of all faiths, orphanages,

hospitals and schools all over the world. They remake them, he explained, and use them for religious purposes, teaching and decorations. In some cases they sell them for their charitable causes.

Early now has more than 400 recipients all over the world. He will send addresses, mailing instructions and postal rates if you send a self addressed, stamped envelope to Jack Early, All-Year Christmas Cheer, 134 Pfeiffer Street, Alcatraz Heights, San Francisco CA 94133.

Recycle Your Christmas Cards

For the MAY-JULY Period

TYPE:	1993	1994	%CHANGE
Homicide	1	0	
Rape	2	0	
Robbery	15	26	
Assault	28	26	
Burglary	37	32	
Theft	79	122	
Auto	44	83	
Other	164	120	
Total	370	409	10.54%
Major*	206	289	40.29%

*Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Grand/Petty Theft, Auto Theft, Purse Snatch



Hill Crime Statistics

by Pat Lorentzen

Tel Hill Special Use District

by Jim Valenti,
Planning and Zoning Chair

Thanks to the efforts of Alice Suet Yee Barkley, an attorney here in San Francisco, interim controls to establish a new special use district have been proposed to protect the top of Telegraph Hill. Citing the unique characteristics of our hill and its attraction to visitors from all over the world, the proposed legislation creates a special zoning district to help defend its fragile environment from the persistent pressure to increase building heights, size, and densities.

The present RH-3 zoning that envelopes most of our neighborhood's residential blocks fails to consider or protect the unique character of our neighborhood. The new resolution recognizes "the cliffs, narrow streets, steps and alleys that create an intimate pedestrian space. . . with the texture of small-scale buildings hugging the steep topography to provide sudden and dramatic views of the bay vistas, downtown and other parts of the city through the narrow openings" that visitors to Coit Tower and Pioneer Park find so exhilarating.

The new ordinance is an attempt to protect the hill from "new developments which dominate over the existing patterns and change the scale, character and uniqueness of this area, resulting in overcrowding of the land."

This special use district proposal addresses and attempts to protect the exceptional qualities not recognized by city-wide zoning designations. New construction allowed by the current zoning rules has been a continual source of anxiety for the neighborhood and the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Board as we helplessly watched new projects ignore and adversely impact the existing cityscape.

The new controls establish more appropriate methods to determine the height of new construction on lots with only step access and on steep downsloping and upsloping lots.

The new height limits on steep lots (lots exceeding 10 feet in elevation between front and rear property lines) shall step up or down with the existing grade. The controls also address the problems created by out-of-scale buildings placed on narrow alleys that block out the sun by lowering the allowed height to 22 feet on rights-of-way less than 30 feet wide.

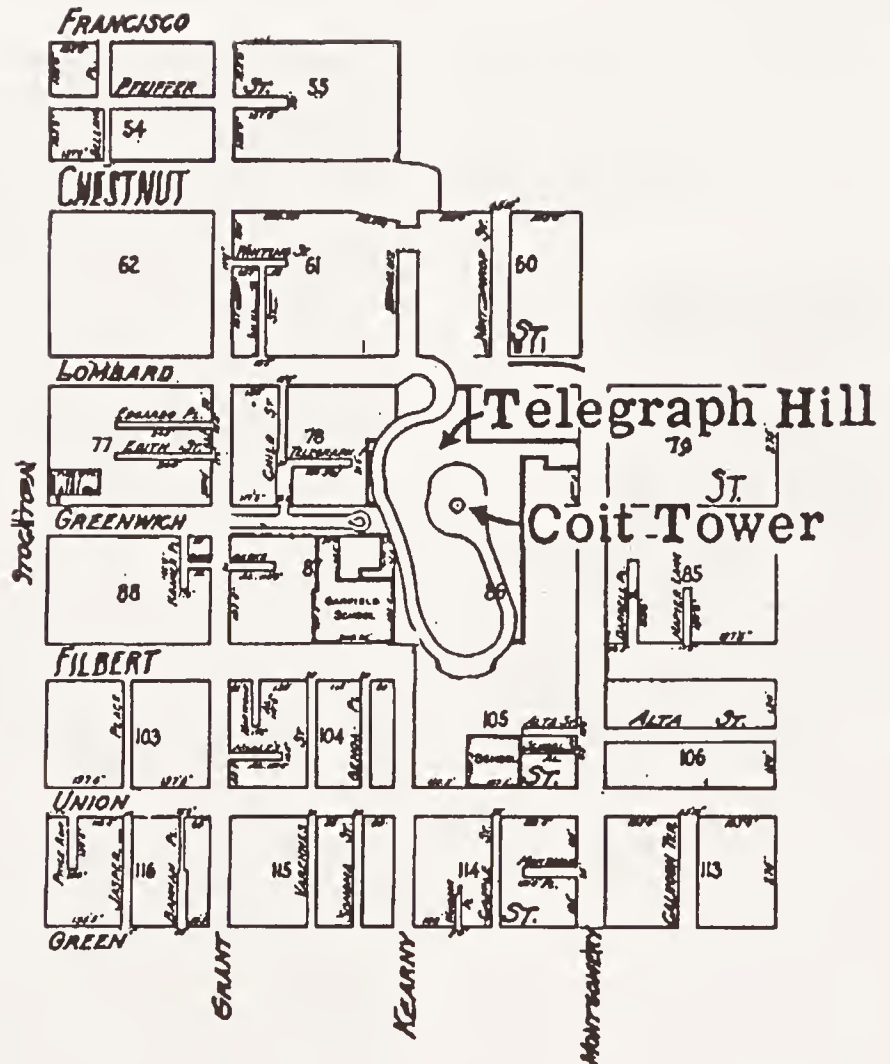
The new ordinance also provides new limits to building size by lowering the floor area ratio (ratio of building size to lot size) to 1.8 to 1 for standard lots (25 ft x 100 ft) and larger; and reducing the F.A.R. to 1.65 to 1 for lots with less than 2,500 square feet. Over-development of these small, non-conforming, inner-block parcels, created early

in our neighborhoods's history, has been a continual affront to the existing neighborhood context because these special lots have not had special designation and are treated like all others under current zoning rules.

Finally, the special use district proposal provides for a "Special Design Review by the Planning Commission" for all building permit applications which exceed the new proposed height and size limits.

The document establishes additional criteria to be met for Planning Commission approval. It states, "New or expanding projects will not adversely affect sun access to publicly owned open space and pedestrian corridors; ...will relate to the prevailing scale and character of development to avoid an overwhelming or dominating appearance; . . . will promote harmony in the visual relationship and transition between new and older buildings; . . . will protect and enhance important city resources and the special and unique character of the district; . . . will recognize and enhance the architectural characteristics of the district."

The new zoning ordinance was introduced to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on July 28, 1994 and is now under review by the City Attorney's office. This legislation is a significant step to preserve a precious and beloved urban environment that is rapidly



changing due to the high stakes of development economics.

In a single move it actively counters several problems created by most new construction; issues the City Planning Department has recognized as areas for concern, but so far unable to address due to staff and budget deficiencies. I urge everyone who supports this resolution to call a San Francisco

supervisor and let them know how you feel.

I would also like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the THD Board of Directors, who unanimously supported this proposal, to thank Ms. Barkley for all her efforts and applaud her insight and knowledge of the system that allowed these desperately needed countermeasures to quickly become a reality.

Who Calls Shots at Parking & Traffic?

by Gerald Hurtado

Last November San Franciscans voted to create a Transportation Commission to oversee the Municipal Railway. This same legislation would allow the Board of Supervisors to move the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) under the authority of this commission. Should the Board opt to do this, it would put parking, traffic and public transportation under one roof. Such a move could facilitate a more comprehensive and unified public "transit first" policy.

Dismantle DPT?

Supervisor Bill Maher, who sits on the Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors along with Supervisors Carole Migden and Susan Leal, introduced a motion for a charter amendment to be placed on the November ballot which would dismantle the Department of Parking and Traffic.

On Monday, July 11, 1994, Maher could not get the Rules Committee to go along. So the following Monday, Aug. 1, 1994, Maher brought the motion before the full Board. The boardroom was packed with parking control officers expressing a desire to be back with the police. The vote was 5 to 5. Supervisor Hsieh, who would have been the tie-breaker was absent. The motion failed.

The future of DPT may be challenged again, however, as more and more people are irritated by what they perceive to be a policy of heavy-handed enforcement not necessarily designed to facilitate the flow of neighborhood traffic but rather to fill the coffers of City Hall through the unrelenting issuance of citations.

In the *Sunday Examiner* (7/31/94) article entitled *Parking Tickets Pay Off for S.F. DPT* Executive Director John Newlin is quoted: "Sure there's a difference, like in North Beach -- before, maybe you could park your car at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. and be a few feet over the crosswalk and move it when you go to work in the morning without getting a ticket. But now you're not going to get away with it."

In the same article Supervisor Willie Kennedy takes exception to this attitude. Kennedy is quoted as suggesting the adoption of a "no harm, no foul" approach to issuing tickets.

A recent residential parking study of North Beach conducted by DPT concluded areas of North Beach are at 117% of parking capacity. That may be the reason North Beach residents sometime park as they do after 10 p.m. It isn't necessarily that residents want to flaunt the law, but rather, it seems at times there just isn't anything else they can do.

Gridlock on Grant Avenue

North Beach Pizza, Inc. continues to use Grant Avenue to double park their delivery vehicles. Traffic snarls commonly occur on Grant because of these double parked cars.

Last May, in response to a letter from DPT warning against the practice of double parking, North Beach Pizza's Marketing Manager, Rita Magalhaes, attended a THD parking committee meeting. She said the restaurant operates 18 delivery vehicles during the week and 23 delivery vehicles on the weekend. She agreed to look into renting off-street parking so that their radio-controlled cars could que up without causing a logjam on Grant Avenue.

To date North Beach Pizza continues to double park their pizza delivery cars on Grant Avenue, and DPT's enforcement division at the moment seems powerless to do anything about it.

Old North Beach Garage to be razed

Say goodbye to the old North Beach Garage located on Vallejo Street across from Central Police Station. DPT Director, Kevin Haggerty, indicated that the old structure had to come down in order for the seller to finish the clean-up they are obligated to do. Haggerty estimated demolition

will occur in mid October or November.

DPT plans to build a new garage on the site, but until they can get the design through the approval process, they intend to black-top the lot for surface parking as an interim measure.

In August 1993, the Civic Design Review Committee of the Arts Commission unanimously rejected the conceptual design for a 65-foot garage structure proposed by DPT at that time because the mass of the project was out of proportion with the surrounding buildings and the exterior treatment was incompatible with the character of the street. The project has been on hold for one year.

Regarding the proposed new garage, the Board of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers is on record supporting additional parking facilities in the neighborhood, consistent with the integrity of the area's 40 foot height limit. The forty-foot height limit on new construction exists to preserve the character of the North Beach neighborhood.

Nancy Katz, Parking and Transportation Expert

Nancy Katz, a founding member of THD and most recently co-chair of the Parking Committee passed away July 28, 1994 after a long fight with cancer. Over the years Nancy

came to be known as "Ms. Parking" for THD. If you had a problem you gave her a call. She was always up on the issues of parking and transportation. Nancy was generous with her time and energy, and she was willing to take on a fight -- she fought construction of the Embarcadero freeway and lived to see it come down. Nancy admitted she had a little help from Mother Nature on that one. Nancy Katz will be missed.

You are invited - next meeting September 10th

The next meeting of the Parking and Traffic committee will take place at the Gathering Caffe, 1326 Grant Avenue, Saturday, September 10, 1994 at 11 a.m. Representatives from DPT will be invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

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City-owned Parking Garages/lots	554-9805
Residential Permit Parking Program	
Information Recording	554-5000
Business Office	554-9910
Traffic Engineering (Curb Painting, Meter, Signal, Signs, Street Closing for Fairs Parties)	554-2300
Bicycle Info	554-2351
Traffic Signal -Repair	550-2736
Sign -Repair	554-9780
Meter -Repair	550-2739
Curb Painting -Maintenance	554-2322

Zax

By Marsha Garland

*One day, making tracks
In the prairie of Prax
Came a North-Going Zax
And a South-Going Zax*

Mark Drazek and Barbara Mulas, the husband and wife culinary dream team who have created Zax, one of North Beach's newest restaurants, might well be considered a North-Going Zax and a South-Going Zax. And, Mark Drazek's college nickname was Zax.

North Beach may not be the prairie of Prax but it is the neighborhood the young couple chose for their first restaurant venture. Certainly Dr. Seuss' whimsy is not lost on Mark and Barbara. A copy of Dr. Seuss' *The Sneetches and Other Stories*, which includes *The Zax*, is located on the walnut-stained maple bar.

Zax, which opened in December, 1993, is a French Mediterranean addition to the North Beach restaurant scene. The difficult long, narrow space at 2330 Taylor near the intersection of Columbus and Chestnut, has been transformed into a light, airy, contemporary space, with fine art and photography exhibited on two-toned celadon walls.

Interior designer Brad Rytz admits the space (The former home of Susie Kate's, Hal's and Chez Marguerite) was a problem. "The first and probably most important step was to put in a coffered ceiling with indirect lighting to give drama and height to the room." Aside from residential, other commercial space designed by Rytz includes the

restaurant Today's (Geordy's) and the Krizia Building on Grant Avenue.

Zax's menu, which usually features six entrees and six starters, evolves monthly, reflecting what's available in the markets. A small, well-chosen wine list, focuses on California wines, with a smattering of French and Italian selections. Zax' signature dish, Twice Baked Goat Cheese Souffle with apples, celery and fennel salad with cider vinaigrette (\$5.25), is one of the few constant items. Another is Romaine Salad with anchovies, lemon, garlic and Romano cheese (\$5.00).

Salmon, a summertime favorite, is served grilled with red wine-shallot butter, roast garlic mashed potatoes and sweet corn-spinach salad (\$14.00). Although the owners describe their cuisine as French Mediterranean, some prefer to call it California Seasonal. The food is more rustic than what is normally thought of as French and includes some Italian mainstays, like Tagliarini with Prawns, roasted peppers, parsley and garlic (\$14.00).

Drazek and Mulas met at the California Culinary Academy and both graduated in 1987. Since then they have worked for some of the leading restaurants in the Bay Area.

At Oakland's highly-acclaimed Bay Wolf, Mark was a line cook. There he cooked

everything from soups to desserts. Prior to that, he had worked at Alice Waters' Cafe Fanny in Berkeley. Under Waters' tutelage, Drazek did Cafe Fanny's produce shopping at Monterey Market in Berkeley. Mark still shops there, carefully selecting the best of California's fresh bounty for Zax' menu.

Mark Drazek, 33, was born in Birmingham, Michigan, where cooking was rarely, if ever, raised to the art form that has now become second nature to him. As for many of us, home meals consisted of meat and potatoes, over-cooked vegetables and instant Jello puddings.

At Zax, however, Mark's principal role is the dessert chef.

"I like making desserts," he says. "I've always believed that pastry baking and hot food require two different people. I think Barbara is better adapted to hot food although at times we both work on everything."

Mark makes his own ice cream and granite using the freshest seasonal fruit available. Some dessert choices on a recent menu included Rich Chocolate Torte with hazelnut-chocolate chunk ice cream and caramel sauce (\$5.00), Vanilla Pot de Creme with fresh berries and shortbread cookies (\$5.00), Warm Cherry Galette with vanilla-bean ice cream (\$5.00) and Fresh Fruit Granite with biscotti.

Barbara Mulas, 34, who was born in Montclair, New Jersey, like her husband, came to California in 1984.

Back east, Barbara visited her mother's Sicilian family in Boston's North End frequently. Her grandmother's cooking influenced everyone in the family.

Barbara's uncle owned a boat and fished the Atlantic. Anyone who has spent any time around Italians or Sicilians knows of their insistence on fresh fruit and vegetables and, most especially the Sicilians passion for fresh fish.

As a young girl Barbara hung around the family kitchen helping to make pizza and inventing

Continued on Page 24

Zax's Vanilla Pot de Creme

- 1 vanilla bean
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 cups whipping cream
- 6 egg yolks

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Split vanilla bean in 1/2 lengthwise; scrape out seeds. Combine vanilla seeds, vanilla bean, cream and sugar in pot and heat over low heat until sugar is dissolved. (Longer steeping will bring out more vanilla flavor. Do not boil.) Whisk egg yolk in mixing bowl to break up. Pour in hot cream mixture, stirring constantly. Strain the custard and pour into custard cups making certain to keep vanilla seed mixed well.

Fill to about 1/3 full a large baking pan with boiling water. Place custard cups in pan and cover lightly with foil and place in center of oven. Bake about 20-25 minutes until just set. May still be slightly soft when shaken. Remove from water bath and allow to cool.

Serve with fresh berries and shortbread cookies.

Makes eight servings.

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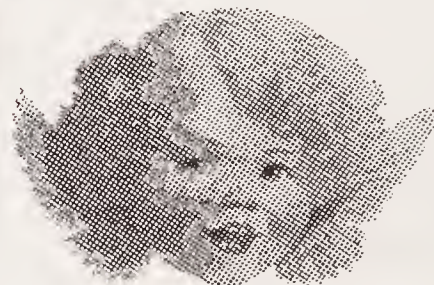
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Zax...

toppings. It was only after she left home that Barbara realized there was a great discrepancy between the food she had been raised on and the average American's diet.

After graduating from the California Culinary Academy, Barbara cooked at the renowned Citron in Oakland's Rockridge area.

When asked what she would serve the Queen of England to best showcase Zax's cooking and California's fare, Mulas responded "Our Twice Baked Goat Cheese Souffle, then Braised Lamb Shanks with flageolet and young garlic served with a Rafanelli Zinfandel, followed by a Warm Gravenstein Apple Galette with caramel sauce and vanilla bean ice cream."

Mulas says that despite the long hours (11 am to midnight), her favorite part of the job is watching people eat. She always looks at the plates to monitor what is or is not successful. When the orders come in, she often takes a peek from the kitchen to watch people eating, taking mental note of the expressions on their faces. The diner's pleasure becomes her own.

Barbara and Mark, who live in Oakland, wanted to open a restaurant in San Francisco because of its diverse neighborhoods. They always liked visiting the city's neighborhood restaurants. Although they had consid-

ered opening a restaurant in Noe Valley, they settled on North Beach because it had always been one of their favorite neighborhoods. We should be glad they did!

Zax, 2330 Taylor Street just off Columbus and Chestnut. 45 seats. Open five nights a week, Tuesday through Saturday, 5 pm to 10 pm, non-smoking. \$3.00 validated parking at corner of Taylor and Francisco.

Future of North Beach Library

by Gardner Haskell, North Beach Library Manager

Proposition E Implementation public hearings have begun.

The meeting for the North Beach branch is scheduled for Thursday evening September 29th at 7:00PM. The meeting will last for at least one hour, perhaps an hour and a half.

This is your opportunity to meet Library Commissioner Gee and to express your views about such topics as library hours and services.

North Beach branch library is at the corner of Columbus and Mason Streets.

A Very Spendy Cookie

by Helen von Ammon

The following relates only tenuously to Telly Hill, so you may flip to another section of our beloved Semaphore. BUT! - if you must, gladly or grudgingly, entertain a crotchety older (often synonymous), read on. What follows may place you higher on the food chain when Aunt Prunelia's will is read.

As a donor to numerous organizations, frequently I receive luncheon or dinner invitations. Usually these are pleasant opportunities to meet other donors, staff and faculty members. Following is an account of a donor luncheon which consisted of a single "spendy" cookie. "Spendy" is an Alaskan colloquialism for something which is over-priced.

I've retired my motoring glove and this selfless act should bring joy to all motorists. And so I was delighted when a glistening black limo, its obsidian-dark windows impervious to mystified neighbors, rolled to my gate.

Upon arrival at the college, the snappy uniformed driver disgorged me and other seniors who had been invited to this donor luncheon from the stylish vehicle. We pinned on the provided identification cards. Printed smaller than instructions on prescription bottles, our names were legible only by going nose to nose. The cards should have been printed in

Bold 24 Point Type

Each box contained a sandwich, a six-inch long baguette. Tightly encased in plastic wrap, the sandwich could have survived a punt off Coit Tower. The sharp odor of raw onions arose ominously from the plasticized sandwich; a small turd of salad exacerbated the redolency. I'm allergic to plants of the genus *Allium*; myriad folk are similarly afflicted. Many guests put the sandwiches aside. A few diners tackled their baguettewiches, like dogs worrying bones. Anxiously, they hovered over the tame, gnawed the tough, soggy crust and hoped that chopped chicken and onions would not plummet onto their expensive signature clothes.

No detail had been overlooked. Each lunch box provided a plastic knife and fork rolled inside a paper napkin. The caterer had cunningly used a red ribbon around the little parcel. Knotted tightly, like an obstreperous shoelace, the cheerful ribbon ensured that it was child resistant and would never relent to arthritic fingers.

Further delights lurked in the corner of the box - a single cookie and a pippin apple. Green and hard as a Mexican Margarita glass, whoever bit unwarily into that apple had dentistry in her future. Wise to these freeloaders, the cool caterer felt the apple represented a greater challenge than a perfectly packaged banana,

Continued on Page 26

Police Volunteer Program

Hill residents can offer their services to the Police Department in a new volunteer program.

Lieutenant Mindy Pengel says a new program will provide the understaffed department with much needed assistance and will help dissolve the "mystique" some say surrounds the department and its operations.

Volunteers in the program will be required to work for the department a minimum of four hours a week. Pengel, who is coordinating the program with San Francisco resident Kathleen Hohalek, said she hopes to recruit between 10 and 12 people for the program's initial run.

The volunteers will be trained and placed at Central, Mission and Northern stations, where they will mostly assist officers with administrative tasks, Pengel said. She added that she is particularly interested in recruiting bilingual volunteers.

Anyone Interested should call Pengel at (415)5511007.

Continued from Page 25

small bunch of grapes, or individually wrapped mint.

Stomach rumbling, I sighed and lunched on a very "spendy" cookie.

As Cicero said, "I am very grateful to old age because it has increased my desire for conversation and lessened my desire for food and drink."

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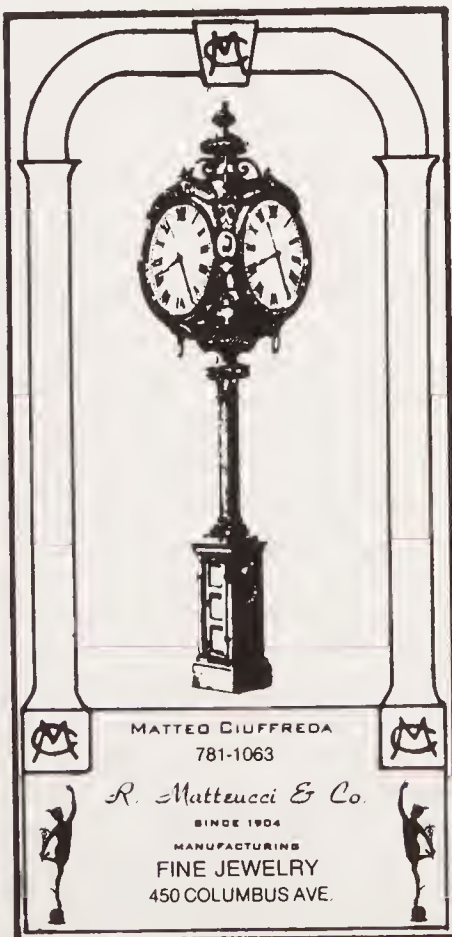
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Remembrance of Things Past

Editor

I certainly miss the wonderful people who lived there and even more those who are still able to stay and envy those who have their own garage.

I still receive the Semaphore and was interested to see the article about Nancy and Bob Katz for they have done so much for The Hill over a period of many years. However, they did not write or publish the first half dozen or so issues of The Bulletin for that was my pleasure. I kept my name off the paper in an effort to be modest but did put it in the TH book (Page 86.)

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The Threat of Pier 39's Seaplane Sightseeing Tours

Editor:

On May 19th, the Planning Commission heard in stony silence the very pertinent environmental and legal neighborhood objections to this threat - including evidence that it would violate the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The commission then unanimously approved the requested half year "trial" permit. The matter is now before the Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC, a State Agency) which is asking a great number of very searching questions.

After a 13 year ordeal of constant helicopter racket originating from Pier 43, the neighborhoods have now for eight years enjoyed their bay and their sky free of the noisy intrusion of sightseeing aircraft.

Pier 39 has plenty of outstanding attractions to prosper without airplane tours. We hope that BCDC will deny a permit - or even better, that Pier 39 will decide to be a good neighbor and abandon this offensive project.

Robert Katz

Ex Waterfront Committee Chair

Speaking Out...

This is your sounding box. Please make your letters to the editor short and to the point. We would appreciate receiving disks if possible. Thanks.

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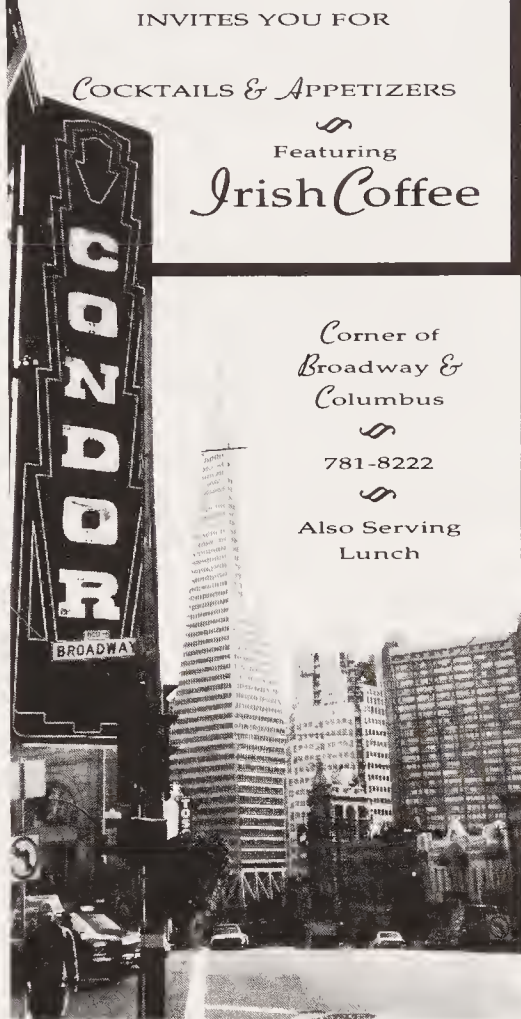
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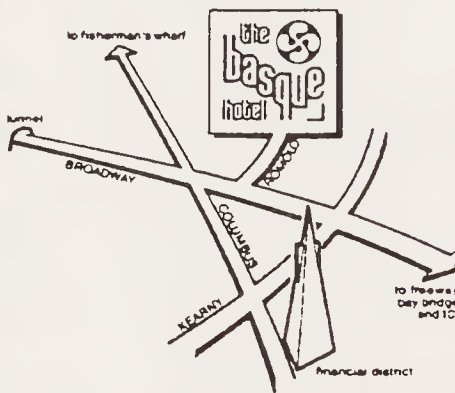
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N.E.R.T. News: Calling All Hams

If you're an amateur radio operator and want to be ready to lend a hand (an ear?) when a disaster strikes, check into the San Francisco Fire Battalion One Emergency Simplex Net, meeting every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on 146.535 mhz Simplex. If you can't connect on Wednesdays, call Gloria Pettersson at 928-3033 (fax: 928-1366). She's the Emergency Coordinator of Auxiliary Communications for the SF Office of Emergency Services, and she's perched up on Russian Hill waiting to hear from you.

The purpose of the Net is to conduct planning, organization,

and training for emergency amateur radio communications for Battalion One, which is located at 1340 Powell Street near Broadway.

This is part of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (N.E.R.T.) effort of the Fire Department which is attempting to make San Francisco neighborhoods self sufficient after the next earthquake occurs.

If you're NOT a ham radio operator, but you ARE interested in being prepared, call June Fraps, 392-1187 for more information.

THD Statement as of July 31, 1994

Revenue and Expences April 1, to July 31, 1994

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	17,289
Prepaid Postage	300
Total	17,589
Fund Balances	
Restricted Fund	10,000
Greening the Hill Fund	3,389
Unrestricted Fund	6,667
Expences over Revenue	(2,468)
Total	17,589

Revenue	
Advertising Income	1,398
Contributions	305
Dues Received	5,010
Sale of T-Shirts	733
Interest Earned	11
TOTAL REVENUE	7,457

Expenditures	
Membership	1,734
Social Events	1,381
Semaphore	2,381
Insurance	2,047
Committees	356
Administration	704
Purchase of T-Shirts	1,321
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,924
Net Loss	(2,468)



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* APR and Annual Membership Fee as of June 1, 1994, date of printing. **Grace Period:** 25 days. **Method of Computing Balance:** average daily balance including new purchases and/or cash advances. **Transaction Fee for Cash Advance:** 2% of cash advance. **Late Payment Fee:** \$3 minimum, \$5 maximum. **Minimum Finance Charge:** \$.50. **Overlimit Fee:** \$5 per transaction, \$25 maximum per day. Above disclosures are accurate as of June 1, 1994, date of printing. Such information may have changed after that date. To find out, write to: **Bank of Canton of California**, P.O. Box 26469, San Francisco, CA 94126-6469. **A-1**



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THD CALENDAR

Telegraph Hill Hike - 2nd & 4th Thursdays June thru September
5:30 p.m. - Marconi Statue, Lombard & Tele Hill Blvd. 557-4266.
North Beach Walks - Saturday mornings - 10 a.m. (pg 13)
N.E.R.T. Ham Radio On The Air Meeting - Wednesdays (pg 30)
Parking Meeting - September 10 - 11 a.m. (pg 20)
All S.F. Concert - September 12, 421-3820 (pg 5)
Lyon Street Steps Walking Tour - September 24 (pg 13)
Informal THD Member Get-together - September 25 (pg 5)
Library Planning Meeting - September 29 (pg 24)
Playground Garden Planting - 982-4850 (pg 16)
Coit tower Picnic - October 16
Panhandle Horticultural Walking Tour - October 22 (pg 13)
Anniversary Dinner Dance - November (pg 5)

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